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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,504	10/26/2001	Yi-Ren Woo	1416.03US01	4675

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EXAMINER

SWEET, THOMAS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,504

Applicant(s)

WOO ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J Sweet

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 40-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,4-21,40-45 and 48-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,22,46,47 and 55 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-23 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that no additional searching would be required. This is not found persuasive because, additional searching would be required. The traversal is moot since, Applicant has elected to cancel the nonelected claims 24-39.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Li et al (US 6231879). Li et al discloses an implantable prosthesis (title) comprising a rigid material (col 8, lines 16-17) with pores filled with hydrogel (col 7, lines 5-15) and a structural protein (collagen, col 6, lines 43-57).

With regard to claim 4, the collagen is only coated in the pores

With regard to claims 9-11 and 13, See column 1, lines 14-20 and column 10, lines 39-65.

With regard to claim 14, see column 7, lines 1-4.

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With regard to claims 16 and 17, the material is an open celled foam having a network of pores (col 5, lines 46-54)

With regard to claim 18, collagen is a nutrient.

With regard to claim 19, seeded with cells (col 14, lines 1-2).

With regard to claims 20 and 21, see column 3-4, lines 64-5.

Claims 40-45 and 48-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Solovay (US 5,769,884). Solovay discloses an implantable medical device comprising a rigid material (30) having pores (abstract) and a filler (col 6) comprising hydrogel, a structural protein, a bioactive agent, or a mixture thereof (lines 47-55) to promote cellular attachment and proliferation.

With regards to claims 43 and 52, the filled pores inherently present a smooth surface to flow.

Response to Amendment

The declaration filed on 12/12/2003 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Carlyle et al reference.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/12/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Although the Examiner cited the wrong passage supporting the use of hydrogel (col 8 instead of col 7), the Li et al reference does disclose the use of hydrogel and structural protein to fill the pores. All other arguments are moot since, the claims have been structurally met by the Li et al reference.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 22, 46-47 and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J Sweet whose telephone number is (703) 308-4018. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 5:00pm, M-Th.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine M McDermott can be reached on (703) 308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tjs


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